

Butler Eagle

2017-18

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WRESTLING

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2017-18 WRESTLING PREVIEW

Gunning for Glory

Several wrestlers, teams shooting for big things on the mat this season

John Enrietto Eagle Staff Writer, December 8, 2017 - High School Wrestling



Seneca Valley senior Louis Newell, top, is gunning for an elusive state title after finishing second at the PIAA Wrestling Championships the last two seasons.

BUTLER EAGLE FILE PHOTO

Wrestling is a sport of steps — and some are higher up the staircase than others. Seneca Valley's Louis Newell placed second at the PIAA Championships last year. He wants a state title.

Slippery Rock's Mike Doerflinger placed sixth at the state meet a year ago. He wants to place higher.

Mars' Alex Hornfeck and Butler's Christian Sequete fell a match short of qualifying for the PIAA tourney. They want to get there. Numerous other wrestlers begin the 2017-18 season with other goals in mind. Here is a look at Butler County teams this season:

Butler - Coach: Scott Stoner, 25th year, 335-160, 7th on WPIAL all-time dual match win list

2017 graduates wrestling in college: Caleb Baxter (Waynesburg), Seth McCrea (Thiel), Scott Dietrich (Mercyhurst)

Top returnees: Christian Sequete (senior, 182) 18-5; Jack Codispot (junior, 145) 30-12; Justin Stewart (senior, 160-170) 13-18, Robbie Hays (senior, 160-170) 6-16, Colton Spohn (soph., 120) 15-14; Nate McDonald (soph., 138) 11-18

Top newcomers: Clayton Dressler (freshman, 106); Nate McMaster (freshman, 126); Steven Green (freshman, 132); Ian Thompson (junior, 285); Pacey Rakoci (junior, 220)

Stoner says: "Our numbers are down with only 15 wrestlers on the varsity. We will probably have to forfeit a couple of weight classes, which will make it hard for us to win a lot of dual matches. We'll work on guys' individual skills and will get better as we go along."

Knoch - Coach: Steve Carney, fourth year

Top Returnees: Kameron Grassi (soph., 132) 13-13; Eric Green (senior, 182) 19-8; Guy DeLeonardis (soph., 145) 8-9; Brendan Hinchberger (soph., 152) 12-15; Hunter Oskin (junior, 126) 10-16

Top Newcomers: Saavon Mosby (junior, 285) 28-11 at Butler; Ty Misitis (freshman, 106); Brandon Rogers (freshman, 138); Sam Freyermuth (freshman, 160); Ernie Zilka (soph., 170); Kody Moore (freshman, 195); Dalton Reed (freshman, 220)

Carney says: "I'm excited about this year. We have a good group of kids and this is the fullest our room has been since I've been here. We're getting off to a good start."

Mars - Coach: Jason Wilk, fourth year

Top returnees: Alex Hornfeck (senior, 145) 31-3; Jake Richardson (soph., 160) 13-1; junior Noah Hunkele (junior, 106) 20-10; Nolan Wicker (senior, 126) 21-15; Aidan Leshinsky (senior, 132) 20-16

Top newcomer: Keith Brubach (freshman, 113)

Wilk says: "Our goals are to break through and reach the section and WPIAL team tournaments for the first time. Alex Hornfeck lost in double overtime for fourth place in the WPIAL last year and a berth at states. He wants to get there and place this year."

Seneca Valley - Coach: Kevin Wildrick, seventh year

Top returnees: Louis Newell (senior, 126) 41-5, state runner-up; Jason Geyer (junior, 132) 26-12; Drew Vlasnik (soph., 145-152) 23-12; Nick Montalbano (junior, 145) 22-13; Ty Gross (senior, 170) 29-14)

Top newcomers: Dylan Chappell (freshman, 106-113); Alejandro Herrera (freshman, 106-113); Antonio Amelio (freshman, 132-138)

Wildrick says: "I feel like we can make a run at the section title this year and the WPIAL championship. You always have those goals, but we've got a better possibility of achieving that now than we had in the past couple of years."

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Butler pins down win over P-R, 48-33

6 falls overcome forfeit defeats

[Derek Pyda Eagle Staff Writer, December 14, 2017 - High School Wrestling](#)



Butler senior Christian Sequete takes control of Pine Richland's Miguel Jackson in their 220-pound match Wednesday night. Sequete won by pin and the Golden Tornado went on to post a 48-33 victory.

NATE BLACK/ SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

BUTLER TWP — Earning a berth in the WPIAL team playoffs may be a stiffer challenge than in most years for Butler's wrestling team, but Wednesday night's result certainly won't hurt.

The Golden Tornado tallied six pins and withstood a pair of forfeit losses in toppling Pine-Richland, 48-33, in the Section 3-A opener for both teams. Two of Butler's pins came from freshmen — Nate McMaster at 126 pounds and Steven Green at 132.

“McMaster's pin came with two seconds left in the bout,” said Butler coach Scott Stoner. “He didn't turn him (Pine-Richland's Aaron Bailey) until the very end, but he kept grinding. That's the kind of wrestler I want for this program.”

Green, who went 7-1 with five pins last weekend at the Chartiers-Houston Tournament, got off to a fast start against the Rams' John Berger with a takedown and three near-fall points in the first period. “I like to be aggressive all the time,” Green said. “Coach Powell (Fred, assistant) preaches never let off of the pressure and I try to follow it. “In junior high, you may be able to get away with being a little out of shape,” Green added, “but at the varsity level, you have to be a lot tougher and have more endurance.”

Another freshman, Clayton Dressler, won via forfeit at 113 pounds. He, along with McMaster and Green, have injected youthful talent to the Tornado lineup. “Obviously, freshmen come in with a lack of experience at the varsity level,” said Stoner, “but if they come in and don't realize that they are freshmen, they can build a strong foundation over the next few years.”

Butler's other pins came from Nate McDonald (138), Rob Hays (160) and Christian Sequete (220). Hays disposed of Pine-Richland's Ronan Berger 57 seconds into the second period following an escape and two near-fall points. “He's a hard-nosed kid,” said Stoner of Hays. “He came up to me last year and said he is thinking about going to a military school. Wrestling would help with that, so I said, 'Let's give this wrestling thing a try.' “He's only in his second year in the sport, but already has more wins this season than he had all of last year. He's done a great job.”

Sequete, who weighed in at 182 pounds, wrestled up against Pine-Richland's Miguel Jackson, who came in at 210.

“It's tough to have that much extra weight to move around,” said Sequete, who is eyeing a fourth appearance at the WPIAL tournament later this season, “but I bumped up to help the team.”

Stoner knows the section slate will become more difficult.

“Seneca Valley and Mars both have strong teams this year,” he said. “When you're giving up points due to forfeits against teams like that, you're going to be up against it.”

Butler 48, Pine-Richland 33

(Match started at 106 pounds)

106-Palmieri (PR) won by forfeit; 113-Clayton Dressler (B) won by forfeit; 120-Nate Lukez (PR) pinned Colton Spohn, 3:20; 126-Nate McMaster (B) pinned Aaron Bailey, 5:58; 132-Steven Green (B) pinned John Berger, 4:16; 138-Nate McDonald (B) pinned Cameron Fletcher, :31; 145-Ben Salas (PR) dec. Jack Codispot, 10-4; 152-Luke Levendusky (PR) pinned Hunter Neff, 4:35; 160-Rob Hays (B) pinned Ronan Berger, 3:03; 170-Cole Spencer (PR) won by forfeit; 182-Justin Stewart (B) pinned Liam Smith, :50; 195-C. Reagan (B) won by forfeit; 220-Christian Sequete (B) pinned Miguel Jackson, 5:20; Hwt.-John Folmer (PR) pinned Ian Thompson, 3:41

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Sudden victory

Freshman's pin gives Mars wrestling 1st-ever win over Butler, 36-31

[Derek Pyda Eagle Staff Writer, December 21, 2017 - High School Wrestling](#)



Mars wrestler Anthony Grieco attempts to turn Butler's Pacey Rakoci during their 220-pound match Wednesday night. Grieco won the bout via pinfall and the Planets defeated Butler, 36-31. **NATE BLACK/ SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE**

ADAMS TWP — There was no feeling out his opponent for Keith Brubach.

Mars' freshman wrestler entered his 113-pound bout, the final matchup in Wednesday's Section 3 meeting with Butler, with his

team trailing the Golden Tornado, 31-30.

"I knew I had to win," said Brubach. "I just wanted to go out there and get it over with."

Brubach's actions proved it as he scored a takedown of Butler freshman Clayton Dressler three seconds into the bout. He added three near-fall points before pinning Dressler with seven seconds left in the first period.

"I told him (Brubach) right before his match that it wasn't all riding on him," said Mars coach Jason Wilk. "There's a lot of other matches that go into it. I just said to go out, wrestle as hard as he can and have fun. He was really aggressive."

The win clinched a 36-31 team victory for the host Planets, their first-ever win over the Golden Tornado.

"This win means a lot," added Wilk. "I've always had a lot of respect for Butler's program and the way it is run. We lost to them by one point last year."

Dressler was originally set to wrestle at 106 pounds against Mars' Noah Hunkele, but Butler coach Scott Stoner forfeited that bout and put Dressler in at 113.

"Hunkele has a lot of experience and I felt Clayton had a better opportunity at 113," said Stoner. "Hats off to Clayton for hanging in there as long as he did. You never know what can happen in a match.

"I came up with a lineup tonight that I thought gave us a good chance of winning at certain weights," Stoner added. "I figured if everything went our way and we got some bonus points, we'd have a shot at the team win.

"To have it come down to the last match, I think we did well overall."

Butler extended its lead to 31-24 when heavyweight Ian Thompson earned his first varsity win, a 6-5 decision over Mars' Jeff DeSantes. But the forfeit awarded to Hunkele and Brubach's pin sealed the deal for the Planets, who founded themselves in a hole early on.

The match started at 120 pounds and Butler jumped out to a 12-0 lead after three bouts — decisions from Colton Spohn and Steven Green and a pin from Nathan McMaster.

It wasn't until 138 pounds that the Planets tasted victory with Max Lamm's 5-4 decision over Nate McDonald. Lamm held the 5-4 edge entering the third period and withstood a furious escape attempt from McDonald as time wound down.

"That was a very tight match," said Wilk. "For Max to hang in there, it shows what he is made of."

Mars then picked up a victory via pin from Alex Hornfeck at 145 pounds, a win that made him the program's all-time wins leader with 97.

The Planets (2-0) took their initial lead with Sean McElhinney's 9-5 decision over Rob Hays, making the score 18-16 in favor of Mars.

But Butler answered with a pin from Justin Stewart at 182 and Christian Sequete won by forfeit for a 28-18 Tornado lead.

Jake Richardson and Anthony Grieco earned pins for Mars at 160 and 220 pounds, respectively.

"It's amazing in these types of matches, every single point counts," said Wilk. "It took a total team effort on our part to get it done."

"Mars wrestled well," said Stoner. "Give credit to their wrestlers and coaches."

Butler (1-1) will travel to Freedom Thursday for a makeup of a match originally scheduled last week.

Mars will compete at the West Mifflin Tournament next Wednesday and Thursday.

Mars 36, Butler 31

(Match started at 120 pounds)

106-Noah Hunkele (M) won by forfeit; 113-Keith Brubach (M) pinned Clayton Dressler, 1:53; 120-Colton Spohn (B) dec. Davis Luedtke, 2-0; 126-Nathan McMaster (B) pinned Nolan Wicker, 5:05; 132-Steven Green (B) dec. Aidan Leshinsky, 10-4; 138-Max Lamm (M) dec. Nate McDonald, 5-4; 145-Alex Hornfeck (M) pinned Pavlog Pawluk, :33; 152-Jack Codispot (B) major dec. Mitchell McMarlin, 12-3; 160-Jake Richardson (M) pinned Hunter Neff, 1:03; 170-Sean McElhinney (M) dec. Rob Hays, 9-5; 182-Justin Stewart (B) pinned Kevin Soergel, 3:55; 195-Christian Sequete (B) won by forfeit; 220-Anthony Grieco (M) pinned Pacey Rakoci, 5:02; Hwt.-Ian Thompson (B) dec. Jeff DeSantes, 6-5.

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Wrestling

Butler dropped a 42-33 decision at Freedom.

Earning pins for the Golden Tornado (1-2) were Steven Green (132 pounds), Jack Codispot (145), Christian Sequete (182) and Ian Thompson (285).

Freedom 42, Butler 33

(Match started at 106 pounds)

106-Clayton Dressler (B) won by forfeit; 113-Josh Ackerman (F) won by forfeit; 120-Kenny Duschek (F) major dec. Colton Spohn, 14-1; 126-Zay Ward (F) tech. fall Nate McMaster, 16-1; 132-Steven Green (B) pinned Trent Schultheis, 4:39; 138-Jake Pail (F) dec. Nate McDonald, 7-3; 145-Jack Codispot (B) pinned Gordon Kalamasz, 3:26; 152-Komara (F) pinned Hunter Neff, 1:10; 160-Mike Muron (F) pinned Rob Hays, 3:01; 170-Justin Stewart (B) dec. Brett Johnston, 13-6; 182-Christian Sequete (B) pinned Andrew Kalamasz, :22; 195-Hersey Kaleb (F) won by forfeit; 220-Bryson Miller (F) pinned Pacey Rakoci, 1:18; Hwt.-Ian Thompson (B) pinned Fernando Franco, 2:09.

Butler Eagle

Sequete ends year with title

Butler wrestler 1st at 182 pounds at Southmoreland

[January 2, 2018 - High School Wrestling](#)

Butler's Christian Sequete closed 2017 in style.

The senior wrestler earned a tournament championship at 182 pounds late last week at the Southmoreland Holiday Classic, pinning Hollidaysburg's Mason McCready in the third period of the title bout.

After receiving a first-round bye, Sequete scored the first of five takedowns against Valley's Brandon O'Sullivan just 13 seconds into a second-round bout, paving the way to a 14-3 major decision.

Sequete then pinned North Star's Levi Sheeler in the third period in a quarterfinal bout and prevailed with a tight 2-0 decision over Beth Center's Dominic Fundy in the semifinals.

The Golden Tornado had several other wrestlers place at the event. They included: Clayton Dressler (8th at 106 pounds), Colton Spohn (5th at 120), Steven Green (6th at 132), Jack Codispot (3rd at 145) and Justin Stewart (5th at 160).

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Tornado strike often

Butler registers 6 pins during 55-12 wrestling victory vs. Knoch
[John Enrietto Eagle Staff Writer, January 4, 2018 - High School Wrestling](#)



Butler 132-pound freshman Steven Green takes down Knoch's Hunter Cascio during the Golden Tornado's 55-12 wrestling win Wednesday night. Green won the match by pinfall.

DAVE PRELOSKY/ BUTLER EAGLE

BUTLER TWP — Jack Codispot got the story started. Steven Green punctuated it. The two had six of Butler's six pins Wednesday night in a runaway 55-12 dual match wrestling victory over Knoch in the Butler Intermediate gym.

"We know the situation we're in," Golden Tornado coach Scott Stoner. "We have Seneca Valley coming up and we've already lost to Mars.

"Highlands comes in next week and that will be a good match. We needed to pile up some points tonight."

Codispot (13-3) began the match at 152 pounds for the Tornado by pinning Brendan Hinchberger with one second left in the bout. Rob Hays at 170, Pacey Rakoci at 220 and Nate McMaster at 126 also recorded pins for Butler before Green's match at 132 pounds.

“Jack gets a lot of his pins in flurries when he just catches the kid,” Stoner said. “He likes aggressive-type matches like that. We're trying to get him to wrestle a little better on top and engineer falls that way.”

The match of the night looked to be at 182 pounds, where a pair of 10-1 wrestlers butted heads in Butler's Christian Sequete and Knoch's Eric Green. Sequete dominated the match and won by major decision, 15-2.

“I figured that one to be a lot closer,” Stoner admitted. “Christian just beat a state runner-up from last year (at the Southmoreland Tournament) and he's got a lot of confidence right now.”

So does Green, a freshman who improved to 15-4 on the season with his 10th pin of the year. Green leads the Tornado in wins and pins.

“He's had a lot of wrestle-backs in tournaments, so Steven has a lot more matches in than our other guys,” Stoner said. “That's a great thing. We want him on the mat competing as much as possible.”

Rakoci's pin at 220 was just his second win of the season for the Tornado (2-2).

Knoch (0-3) picked up pins from Kody Moore at 195 pounds and former Butler wrestler Saavon Mosby (10-1) at 285. The pin was Mosby's seventh of the year.

Mosby won 49 matches in two years at Butler before his family moved into the South Butler School District during the off-season.

“I was doing a lot of reminiscing tonight ... I've been out on the mat here so many times,” Mosby said. “It felt a little strange. I was in this (Butler) system, since third grade.

“Having a new set of coaches, learning a different skill-set can only help me down the road when I'm hopefully doing this in college.”

Knoch had two starters — Guy DeLeonardis at 145 pounds, Kameron Grassi at 132 — out with an injury and the flu bug Wednesday.

Three of Butler's pins occurred with less than a minute remaining in those matches.

“We got a little sloppy late,” Knoch coach Steve Carney said. “We made mistakes and lost hand control.

“We're just a young team. I don't have much else to say.”

Mosby's move to Knoch marked a first in Stoner's 25-year career as Butler coach.

“I had never lost a kid to a neighboring school and had to go up against him on the other side,” Stoner said. “That was a little weird.

“I'm saddened by it. There's not much you can do, but I wish we still had him here with us.”

Butler 55, Knoch 12

(Match started at 152 pounds)

106-Clayton Dressler (B) dec. Tim Misitis 5-2; 113-No match; 120-Colton Spohn (B) by forfeit; 126-Nate McMaster (B) pinned Hunter Oskin, 5:34; 132-Steven Green (B) pinned Hunter Cascio, 5:01; 138-Nate McDonald (B) pinned Chris Butler, 4:27; 145-Hunter Neff (B) dec. Brandon Rodgers 2-0; 152-Jack Codispot (B) pinned Brendan Hinchberger, 5:59; 160-Justin Stewart (B) dec. Sam Freyermuth 9-2; 170-Rob Hays (B) pinned Earnie Zilka, 3:22; 182-Christian Sequete (B) dec. Eric Green, 15-2; 195-Kody Moore (K) pinned Reagan Donohue, 1:00; 220-Pacey Rakoci (B) pinned Tom Peifer, 2:27; Hwt.-Saavon Mosby (K) pinned Ian Thompson, 5:38

Stoner's run shouldn't be overlooked

John Enrietto - Eagle Staff Writer, January 6, 2018 – High School Wrestling



Here's a little Butler County sports trivia question. What coach has endured only five losing seasons in 25 years — all with the same program — and has a current streak of 10 consecutive trips to the WPIAL playoffs? Answer: Scott Stoner.

Flying under the radar for most of his career, the Butler High School wrestling coach has been the model of consistency in terms of putting a competitive dual match team on the mat. He knows how to structure a lineup and how to adjust that lineup as the dual goes, thus getting the most favorable matchups he can.

Butler's win over Knoch a few days ago marked the 337th dual match win of Stoner's career. He's only lost 162. Stoner's teams are winning by more than a 66 percent clip during his 25-year career.

The last time Butler failed to qualify for the WPIAL team playoffs was the 2006-07 season, when the Golden Tornado finished 7-14. Butler's worst record since then is 15-8 two years ago. Now, however, that decade-long run of WPIAL team playoff appearances is in jeopardy.

Butler lost to Mars in a dual earlier this season. The Tornado still have to wrestle Highlands in what should be a competitive match, then face a Seneca Valley team that is one the Raiders' strongest and deepest in years. Butler does not have a deep roster this year in terms of its varsity lineup. The Tornado have to forfeit a weight class or two each dual, which makes it difficult to defeat an opponent with a full lineup.

Still, this Butler team has its standouts. Senior Christian Sequete is 11-1 on the year, recently defeated a state runner-up from last year, and has 78 career wins. With a strong second half of the season, Sequete has a chance to become the ninth 100-win wrestler in the program's history.

Fellow senior Justin Stewart — a rare three-sport athlete at Butler — is 7-2 on the year. Junior Jack Codispot is 13-3 with nine pins, freshman Steven Green 15-4 with 10 pins.

Sophomores Nate McDonald and Colton Spohn, freshmen Clayton Dressler and Nate McDonald all have a handful of wins so far this season. How that quartet fares down the stretch will go a long way toward determining the fate of the Tornado season. And whether that playoff streak continues.

Butler wrestling has never defeated North Allegheny and has yet to produce an individual state champion. Undoubtedly, both of those items are on Stoner's bucket list.

But in terms of dedication to his sport, to his program and to his school, it's hard to beat Scott Stoner.

When he took over the Butler program in its third year of existence, the Tornado were 3-20 in dual meets and coming off a 0-11 second season. Stoner has sent more than 20 wrestlers on to the college ranks. He'll likely send on a few more.

That WPIAL playoff streak will end someday. Stoner's perseverance never will.

Butler Eagle

Tornado matmen win big

Butler gets 8 pins in 63-12 triumph

[John Enrietto Eagle Staff Writer, January 11, 2018 - High School Wrestling](#)

BUTLER TWP — The start of this match was by no means a sign of things to come.

Butler's 106-pound freshman Clayton Dressler bumped up to 113 to take on Highlands' Evan Henry to open the dual wrestling match between the schools Wednesday night in the Butler Intermediate gym. Dressler scored two back points in the final seconds for a 6-4 decision.

The next seven Golden Tornado wrestlers to take the mat scored pins en route to a 63-12 Butler victory. The dual lasted 36 minutes.

"We gave up one or two takedowns tonight. I didn't want to give up any," Butler coach Scott Stoner said. "I wanted us to dominate and we did that, but you always want to execute moves and square up your opponent all the way through.

"Clayton is a competitor who's not yet as physically strong as he thinks. He made some nice maneuvers to turn around his match." Dressler trailed 4-2 entering the third period.

Butler (3-2) took total control from there. Colton Spohn at 120 pounds, Nate McDonald at 138, Rob Hays at 152, Justin Stewart at 156 and Ian Thompson at heavyweight all recorded pins in the first period. Nate McMaster at 126 and Jack Codispot at 152 had second-period pins while Hunter Neff pinned his foe 29 seconds into the third period.

Stewart's pin was the seventh straight by a Tornado wrestler. "I wasn't thinking about that at all," Stewart said. "When you start thinking about stuff like that, it messes you up. "We use a match like this to work on technique, to try new things. It's all about getting better as an individual and as a team."

Highlands (3-7) picked up its lone win on the mat at 182 pounds as Ethan Jones won by pin in 42 seconds. "We're a very young team," Golden Rams coach Grant Walters said. "We have two seniors, one junior, all the rest freshmen and sophomores. "That's a lot of first and second-year wrestlers and we've been facing some tough teams. We take any win we can get and try to grow confidence that way."

Butler is coming off lopsided wins over Knoch and Highlands and is entering the South Side Duals Saturday. The Tornado head to Seneca Valley for a key dual match next Wednesday.

"We couldn't practice Monday because of the snow and ice," Stoner said. "You want to maintain continuity in wrestling, get some positive work in every day. We even practiced a little bit today before this match. "We're looking to be a little more aggressive, more assertive on the mat, especially with our younger kids." Butler will wrestle South Side, Oil City and Bridgeport (Ohio) in its bracket of the South Side Duals. "I expect us to win that pool, based on what I've seen in scouting," Stoner said. "We'll see."

Butler Eagle

Perfect match

Butler's Baxter thriving as freshman wrestler at Waynesburg University

[John Enrietto, Eagle Staff Writer](#), January 13, 2018 - [Other College Sports](#)



Butler graduate and Waynesburg University freshman wrestler Caleb Baxter goes to work on an opponent during a recent match. Baxter is off to a 15-4 start and has already won a pair of collegiate tournaments.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVE MILLER, ADM PHOTOGRAPHY

WAYNESBURG — A broken elbow suffered during football season cost Caleb Baxter his entire freshman wrestling campaign at Butler.

He wasn't about to sit out his freshman mat season at

Waynesburg University.

"I lost in wrestle-offs to start this season," the 2017 Butler graduate said. "It was to a senior and team captain, but I still didn't like it.

"I've always earned my spot, always had a place in the lineup as long as I've been in this sport."

Waynesburg competed at the Washington & Jefferson Invitational early in the season. College teams can enter as many wrestlers as they want in that type of tournament.

Baxter took to the mat at 174 pounds and won that weight class.

He hasn't stopped since.

"We've had freshmen come in and do well right away in the past," Waynesburg coach Ron Headlee said. "But to see a guy do what he's doing at 174 pounds, against more experienced and physically developed opponents ... That's pretty rare."

Baxter is off to a 15-4 start for the Yellowjackets. Along with winning the W&J Invite, he took first place in the Long Island Open over the holiday break.

Baxter defeated Michael Gargano of Johnson & Wales, 8-1, in the finals of the Long Island event. Gargano is ranked seventh at that weight class in all of Division III.

And Baxter has since beaten out Waynesburg captain and senior Logan Lohr for the starting spot at 174.

"I was motivated early and my confidence has been growing," Baxter said.

But it wasn't always that way.

He struggled adapting to his new surroundings and college life — and thought about giving it up.

"Caleb almost didn't get started there," Butler wrestling Coach Scott Stoner said. "He can get stubborn and he wasn't sure if he wanted to wrestle in college or just give it up.

"His parents told him he made a commitment to Coach Headlee and to see through this season. Now he's making the most of it. He has great ability and toughness. Caleb could go a long way in that program."

Despite wrestling only three seasons at Butler, Baxter ranks 15th all-time with 89 wins for the Golden Tornado. He also ranks among the program's all-time top 15 with 47 pins, 166 takedowns, 39 reversals and a 78 percent victory rate.

"My biggest confidence builder this year was that Long Island tournament," Baxter said. "I beat some good competition there.

"When I beat (Gargano), someone of that caliber, it made me realize where I might be able to go."

Baxter defeated opponents 16-0 and 10-0, then scored a pin in 1:31 before dominating Gargano in the 174-pound title match.

"Caleb is capable of winning our (Presidents' Athletic) Conference title at 174," Headlee said. "I think he can get to nationals. To experience that as a freshman would be a big advantage for him down the road.

"Caleb is physically smaller than most of the guys he's wrestling, but he has great technique and he makes use of leverage extremely well."

Baxter said he feels stronger on the mat this year because he's not giving up as many pounds cutting weight to prepare for the season.

"I used to cut 15 to 20 pounds before the high school (wrestling) season to make my weight class," he said. "That was OK, but it did make me a little slower and it affected my stamina.

"I cut maybe five to 10 pounds to wrestle at 174 here. That's made a big difference."

He's also adapted to the college rules which award more back points, credit riding time and make quicker stalling calls.

"I've made those work for me," Baxter said.

Baxter's 15 wins are tied for third most among Waynesburg wrestlers this year. His six pins are tied for second on the squad.

Now in his 10th year as Waynesburg coach, Headlee's first recruiting class included Butler grads Alex Evanoff and Jon Sanko.

"We've had a long relationship with Butler," Headlee said. "I recruited Caleb heavily. We knew what we were getting in him.

"I like the way he's progressing. He doesn't back down. He doesn't fear people. Those are important things."

Baxter said he knew Waynesburg would be his college destination. "It's a smaller school with more of that high school feeling," he said. "The criminal justice program here is No. 1 in the state and I want to be a cop someday.

"It all fits and it's all working out so far."

Butler Eagle

Toughness times 3

Butler's Stewart grinds throughout the school year as soccer midfielder, starting wrestler and baseball catcher

[John Enrietto - Eagle Staff Writer](#), **January 18, 2018 -Other High School Sports**



Butler senior Justin Stewart (9), competing in soccer.

BUTLER EAGLE FILE PHOTO

BUTLER TWP — When it comes to sports, Justin Stewart never stops.

The Butler High School senior plays midfield for the Golden Tornado soccer team during the fall, wrestles at Butler during the winter and plays catcher for the Tornado baseball team in the spring.

He also catches for his summer baseball travel team.

And he's been doing them all for a long time.

"I love the competition. I love the different sports seasons," Stewart said.

"I wouldn't have it any other way."

Stewart has been playing soccer since he was 4. He's been playing baseball since age 5 and has been a wrestler since he was 7. He has already signed a letter of intent with California (Pa.) University to play baseball next year.

"To be honest, I wasn't sure Justin was coming back to wrestling this season," Butler wrestling Coach Scott Stoner said. "Once he committed to baseball (for college), I thought he might sit out his senior wrestling season to get ready for that."

Stewart was 13-18 as a junior on the mats for the Golden Tornado last season and entered this year with an 18-25 career record.

The idea of leaving the sport wasn't on his radar.

"It never even crossed my mind," Stewart said.

He's off to a 9-2 start this year and "has improved remarkably," Stoner said.

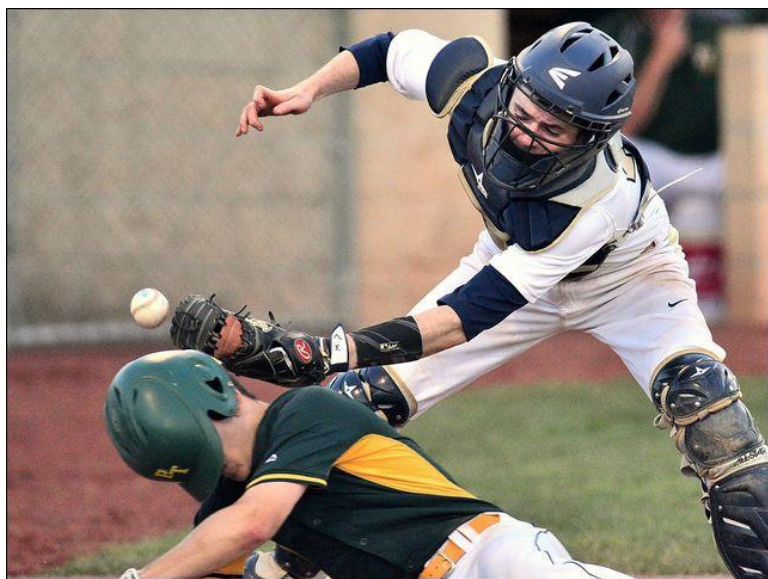
Whatever the season, Justin Stewart is into that season.

He scored 15 goals in soccer last fall in helping Butler reach the WPIAL playoffs. He is one of six Tornado baseball players who have signed on to play college ball next year.

"It's hard getting a kid to play two sports in a school year these days, let alone three," Butler athletic director Bill Mylan said. "You see multiple sport athletes at smaller high schools because they're needed to sustain a lot of those programs.

"At a school our size? Brett Brady (cross country, golf, hockey and track) is the only other kid I'm aware of involved in three sports."

Butler baseball coach Cody Herald said he encourages his players to participate in other sports in high school. He played baseball and basketball during his prep years at Butler.



Butler senior Justin Stewart as a catcher in baseball, is a rare three-sport athlete these days for the Golden Tornado. He is competing in wrestling this winter.

BUTLER EAGLE FILE PHOTO

"I know a lot of coaches want their athletes to concentrate on one sport alone these days," Herald said. "But, to me, that's the way it is in college.

"High school is the last time a kid can play multiple organized sports and he shouldn't be denied that opportunity."

Herald said he's impressed that

Stewart competes in so many sports that require leg strength.

"He uses the lower body quite a bit," Herald said. "In soccer, you're always running. There's the leg drive in wrestling and they say the first thing to go on a catcher is his knees. But Justin is in tremendous shape.

"He's a true athlete who keeps himself fit enough to take on three grueling sports."

Stewart enjoys the common denominator of his three sports.

"I'm always in the middle of everything," he said. "It's awesome. It's fun. Wrestling is always that way, being on the mat alone. I'm in the middle of the field in soccer and as a catcher, I'm involved in every play."

Stewart's father, Craig Stewart, was a catcher at Clarion University.

"That's not why I became a catcher, though," Stewart said. "It was coincidence that I began playing that position. But once I did, my dad has been a tremendous help to me."

Stewart added that he never entertained the idea of dropping any of the three sports through the years.

"I never wanted to experience that void," he said. "One sport, one season, leads into the next. That's how I've led my life.

"Next year, playing only baseball, will definitely be different. But it will also be at another level and I'm looking forward to that challenge.

Butler Eagle

Piling up pins

Raiders use 6 falls to defeat Butler, 54-12

[Derek Pyda, Eagle Staff Writer](#) - January 18, 2018 High School Wrestling



Kevin Meeder of Seneca Valley has Butler wrestler Ian Thompson in a half-nelson hold in their 285- pound match Wednesday night. Meeder wound up winning by pin-fall and the Raiders posted a 54-12 team victory.

NATE BLACK/ SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

JACKSON TWP — Seneca Valley went to the max to turn a close wrestling match with Butler into a rout.

Of the Raiders' first seven wins, six came by fall as SV built a commanding 30-point lead before posting a 54-12 victory Wednesday night at William Paul Gymnasium.

Butler opened the night with a decision credited to Jack Codispot at 145 pounds. The Golden Tornado later received a decision from Justin Stewart (160) and a first-period pin from Christian Sequete (195) and trailed the Raiders 18-12 after six bouts.

But Butler could not keep pace with the Raiders, who received pins from Michael Adamson, Ty Gross, Patrick Johnson, Nick Funovits, Kevin Meeder and Dylan Chappell. Four of those came in the first period.

“You can have the same amount of wins as the other team, but getting those six points from a pin, it makes it tough on your opponent,” said Raiders' coach Kevin Wildrick.

“We knew coming in that (Seneca Valley) had a balanced team,” said Tornado coach Scott Stoner. “We've had some competitive matches with them in the past, but we just don't have the intensity level you need to have. It's disappointing.

“It's been an odd season for us, between the low numbers we have and most of our matches not being competitive (wins and losses). Other than our matches with Mars and Freedom, the other ones have not been close.”

SV's pins from Johnson, Funovits and Meeder came at 182, 220 and 285, respectively.

“All of those guys have the potential to win that way,” added Wildrick. “It's just a matter of getting out on the mat and doing it.”

Meeder, a sophomore, improved his record to 11-7. He was 12-13 last year.

“Getting that time as a freshman, I got my butt beat, but it taught me a lot of toughness. I lift weights for wrestling and football and it seems 10 times easier this season,” Meeder said

Codispot's victory for Butler (3-3, 3-2) came against Nick Montalbano, who entered the night with a 21-6 record this season. The bout was scoreless until Codispot scored an escape and takedown in the third period to win 3-0.

“Jack wrestled a solid, fundamental match against a good kid,” said Stoner.

The Raiders (10-1, 5-0) will next wrestle at the Section 3 Tournament, which begins Wednesday at a site to be determined.

Butler will extend its decade-long streak of competing at team sectionals if it wins a third-place match next week. The opponent will most likely be either Shaler or North Allegheny.

“At a school our size, we should be producing a product that consistently gets to the team playoffs,” said Stoner. “But again, we need that intensity.”

Seneca Valley 54, Butler 12

(Match started at 145 pounds)

106-Alejandro Herrera-Rondon (SV) won by forfeit; 113-Dylan Chappell (SV) pinned Clayton Dressler, 1:05; 120-No bout; 126-Louis Newell (SV) tech. fall Nathan McMaster, 16-1; 132-Jason Geyer (SV) dec. Steven Green, 7-2; 138-Drew Vlasnik (SV) major dec. Nate McDonald, 11-3; 145-Jack Codispot (B) dec. Nick Montalbano, 3-0; 152-Michael Adamson (SV) pinned Hunter Neff, :44; 160-Justin Stewart (B) dec. Conor Hayes, 11-5; 170-Ty Gross (SV) pinned Rob Hays, :34; 182-Patrick Johnson (SV) pinned Lance Rihn, 1:09; 195-Christian Sequete (B) pinned John Michael Siwiak, :32; 220-Nick Funovits (SV) pinned Pacey Rakozi, 2:57; Hwt.-Kevin Meeder (SV) pinned Ian Thompson, 3:18

Butler Eagle

Butler streak snapped at 10

Tornado matmen miss WPIAL team playoffs **January 25, 2018 - High School Round Up**

Butler's streak is over. The Golden Tornado wrestling team dropped the fifth-place section match Wednesday night at Shaler, 46-34, ending their streak of WPIAL team tournament appearances at 10 years.

“It's disappointing,” Butler coach Scott Stoner said. “This was a match I felt we could come down here and win. “But Shaler just took it to us. They were more physical, more aggressive than we were. It was pretty evident to see that.”

The Tornado (3-4) did receive pins from Clayton Dressler at 106 pounds, Jack Codispot at 152, Justin Stewart at 160 and Christian Sequete at 195.

Butler wrestles in a dual at New Castle Thursday night.

Shaler 46, Butler 34 (Match started at 170 pounds)

106-Clayton Dressler (B) pinned Cole Kushnik 2:27; 113-Ryan Sullivan (S) by forfeit; 120-Nate McMaster (B) dec. Hunter Petchar 11-2; 126-Dylan Winters (S) dec. Colton Spohn 20-9; 132-Garrett Reinsfelder (S) pinned Steven Green 3:15; 138-Ellis Popiolkowski (S) pinned Nate McDonald 3:38; 145-Hunter Neff (B) by forfeit; 152-Jack Codispot (B) pinned Torin June, 1:40; 160-Justin Stewart (B) pinned Darian Pedrotty :42; 170-Jake Pollak (S) pinned Lance Rihn 1:43; 182-Jace Lynn (S) pinned Lance Rihn 1:43; 195-Christian Sequete (B) pinned Cole Siford 1:00; 220-Joey Kremer (S) pinned Pacey Rakoci 3:49; Hwt.-Jeff Bonnette (S) pinned Ian Thompson :27

Butler Eagle

Butler Wrestling Defeats New Castle

January 26, 2018

Nate McMaster, Nate McDonald, Jack Codispot, Rob Hays, Justin Stewart and Christian Sequete all recorded pins as Butler downed New Castle, 60-15.

Butler 60, New Castle 15

(Match started at 152 pounds)

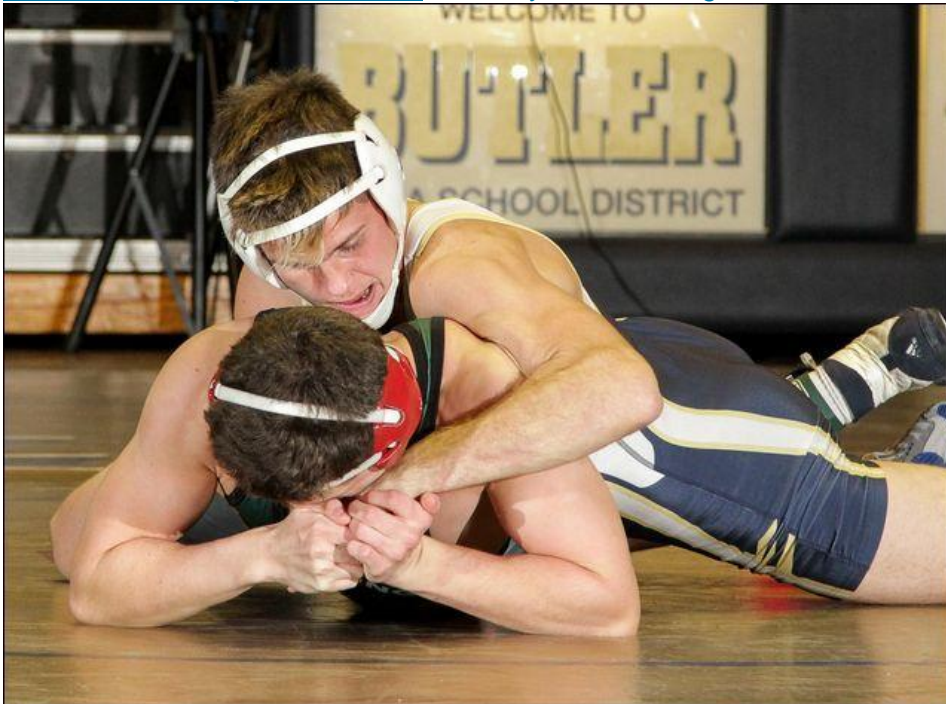
106-Guyd Baptiste (B) by forfeit; 113-Stone Miller (NC) pinned Clayton Dressler :48; 120-Nate McMaster (B) pinned Dante Mangieri 5:35; 126-Colten Spohn (B) by forfeit; 132-Steve Green (B) by forfeit; 138-Nate McDonald (B) pinned Isaac King 3:51; 145-Jaybe Joyce (NC) dec. Hunter Neff 9-6; 152-Jack Codispot (B) pinned 3:35; 160-Rob Hays (B) pinned Anthony Eckendroad 1:48; 170-Justin Stewart (B) pinned Noah Shields 1:13; 182-Cristian Sequete (B) pinned Logan Gibson 1:13 195-Lance Rihn (B) by forfeit; 220-Qaeshawn Napier (NC) tech fall Caleb Hartung 20-5; Hwt.-Micah Killian (NC) maj. dec. Ian Thompson 14-5

Butler Eagle

Double duty

Butler's Codispot earns mat pin in New Castle, pole vault event in Butler on same evening

[John Enrietto, Eagle Staff Writer](#) January 29, 2018 High School Wrestling



Butler wrestler Jack Codispot, in control of his opponent in this match earlier in the season, won a wrestling match in New Castle and a pole vault competition in Butler on the same night last week.

BUTLER EAGLE FILE PHOTO

BUTLER TWP — First, Jack Codispot pinned the opposition down. Then he soared above it.

Two different sports, two different venues, two different towns.

All in one night.

The Butler High School junior achieved a rather unique twin win Thursday night while wrestling in New Castle and pole vaulting in Butler.

Codispot starts at 152 pounds for the Golden Tornado wrestling team, which had a dual meet on the road against the Red Hurricane. Butler's indoor track program was hosting its annual pole vaulting invitational in the Intermediate School gym.

Codispot pole vaults for Butler's indoor and outdoor track teams.

"I didn't expect to even compete in the pole vaulting event," Codispot said. "I had missed it the previous two years because we always had a wrestling match on the same night."

Butler's wrestling match began at 7 p.m. in New Castle. The pole vault competition began at 6:30 p.m. in Butler.

"Things were moving a little bit behind here," Butler pole vault coach Jerry McGarrah said. "I had my son text Jack just to let him know that, just in case."

The wrestling match involved a lot of pins — including Codispot's winning pin at three minutes, 35 seconds — and got finished quickly.

So Codispot didn't ride home on the team bus. His mother drove him directly to the Butler Intermediate gym.

“Jack came up to me right after the match and said he was leaving with his mother, that he was going to try to make the pole vault,” Tornado wrestling coach Scott Stoner said. “I told him, 'Go for it. Get out of here.' That kid always challenges himself. You don't see much of that anymore.”

When Codispot arrived at the gym, he immediately joined the 22-member boys field. The height they were vaulting at by then was 12 feet, three inches.

By rule, Codispot had two minutes to prepare for his first attempt.

“That's getting my gear on, my pole together ... everything,” Codispot said. “It was a bit of a scramble.”

He officially won the meet on his first vault, clearing 12-7.

Then he kept going.

By the time Codispot was done, he had cleared 14 feet, 7 inches. That vault ranks fifth in the state in indoor so far this year. Peyton Morris of East Pennsboro leads the state at 15-7.

Jared Farabee owns Butler's indoor pole vault record of 15-0. He also holds the outdoor mark of 15-5.

Codispot wants them both.

“He actually went for the indoor mark Thursday night,” Butler boys track coach Rick Schontz said. “He barely missed it.

“He was the only guy left for his final few attempts. Everybody else had gotten stopped, but to watch Jack hit 13-7, then a minute later, 14-1, a minute later 14-7 ... It was pretty amazing.”

Codispot said he actually cleared 15-1 “but my knee hit the pole on my way down.”

Carrying a 17-3 record on the wrestling mat this season, Codispot has goals of being a section champion and WPIAL placer, along with breaking Farabee's pole vault records.

“That was a good night,” he said of Thursday. “I'm just glad we made it back in time. It was probably 8:30 or so when we walked in.”

The rest of the wrestling team wasn't far behind.

“These guys support each other and the other kids on the team have a lot of respect for what Jack was doing,” Stoner said. “They were all in the stands rooting him on.”

“It was a thrill to see that whole thing unfold,” McGarrah said. “It shows the type of competitor Jack Codispot is.”

Butler Eagle

Another honor

Butler grad Mitchell lands in Gannon hall of fame

[John Enrietto, Eagle Staff Writer](#) January 31, 2018 - High School Wrestling



Butler High School and Gannon University graduate Lyneil Mitchell, center, poses with Gannon University director of athletics Lisa Goddard McGuirk and Gannon president Keith Taylor. Mitchell was inducted into the university's athletic hall of fame.

BUTLER TWP — Prior to his freshman year at Butler High School, Lyneil Mitchell didn't know high school wrestling existed.

"I thought wrestling was all about Hulk Hogan, turnbuckles and steel chairs ... and I was into that," the 1998 Butler

graduate admitted.

He learned differently — and did so quickly.

Mitchell is now a member of the Butler Area School District Athletic Hall of Fame and Gannon University Athletic Hall of Fame as a result.

He was inducted into the Butler HOF in 2014, the Gannon HOF last weekend.

"When I found out I was being inducted (at Gannon), it made me step back," Mitchell said. "The whole thing is kind of crazy. It shouldn't have even happened.

"The people I met here at home, the decision to go to Gannon and how all that fell into place ... That's why it happened."

Mitchell befriended a fellow Butler student in Dan Seitz, a transfer from Pine-Richland who wrestled there under longtime successful coach Tom McGarrity.

The two playfully wrestled around one time and "he twisted me around like a pretzel even though I weighed 30 pounds more than him," Mitchell said.

"I asked him how he did that and he explained wrestling to me. A few of my buddies — Mark Hamilton, Jeremy Dugan, James Grippo — were on the junior high team. I watched them wrestle and felt like I could do that."

Mitchell loved competition, after all, and had been cut from the seventh grade basketball team.

It was time to try something different. The rest is history.

Mitchell was 77-14 in his high school career at Butler despite not wrestling varsity as a freshman. He wrestled at 189 pounds throughout his career with the Golden Tornado, putting

together won-loss records of 21-7, 26-7 and 30-5. He became Butler's first wrestler to reach the state tournament.

"I'm proud of what he's accomplished," Butler wrestling Coach Scott Stoner said. "I remember picking him up at 6:15 a.m. on the island and we'd work out together in the wrestling room before school.

"Plain old hard work enabled Lyneil to find success in wrestling and as a business owner."

Mitchell is a physical therapist today and owns Revolution Physical Therapy, with facilities at Family Sports Center in Butler and the Lakevue Athletic Club in Valencia.

At Gannon, he wrestled under coach Don Henry — who is in his 34th year as head coach this season — and compiled a 98-32 career record in what was almost two different careers with the Golden Knights.

Mitchell was 36-28 in his first two seasons, 62-4 in his final two, including a national runner-up finish his junior year and third-place finish nationally his senior campaign.

"We red-shirted him after that second year," Henry said. "He came back his junior season as a heavyweight, a bump up in weight class, with a transformation of his body.

"Lyneil was only a 220-pound heavyweight, but he was lean and strong as a bull."

He also had national title contenders as workout partners in Doug Joseph and Todd Proper.

"I remember sitting in a sauna after a workout my freshman year and those guys saying if I wasn't an All-American by the time I graduated, my career would be a failure," Mitchell said.

"My record was around .500 at the time, I was beat up and injured. I just couldn't see that happen. But it did make realize something.

"That transition from high school to college wrestling, you have to either step up or step out," Mitchell said.

He stepped up, coming within 27 seconds of a Division II national championship his junior season.

"He had a three-point lead and was in control of the match," Henry said of the national final.

"Lyneil had a momentary lapse, got caught and got pinned.

"He got caught by a 285-pound opponent in the quarterfinals the next year, then came back to get third. He beat two national champions along the way."

Mitchell became one of 25 All-Americans and one of 81 Academic-All Americans Henry has coached at Gannon.

"Lyneil is near the top when it comes to the best I've coached," Henry said. "And we've had national champions and three-time All-Americans come through here.

"He is a Hall of Famer, no doubt. He figured out how to be successful and he followed that path."

A 2003 graduate, Mitchell becomes the sixth Gannon wrestler to reach the school's athletic Hall of Fame.

"It's not the wins and losses. It's the process I've enjoyed," Mitchell said. "You can't fake it until you make it. You have to put the work in."

Butler Eagle

Anxious for advancement

County wrestlers seek WPIAL berths

[John Enrietto, Eagle Staff Writer, February 24, 2018 - High School Wrestling](#)

FOX CHAPEL — Seneca Valley wrestling already enjoyed a school record-setting team run.

Now the Raiders are looking for an individual one.

SV has 10 of its 14 wrestlers seeded among the top three in their respective weight classes for Saturday's Section 3-AAA tournament at Fox Chapel High School.

The top five wrestlers in each weight class advance to the WPIAL Tournament next Friday and Saturday at Canon-McMillan High School.

“Our goal every year is to get all of our wrestlers through to the WPIAL,” SV coach Kevin Wildrick said. “This year in particular, I think that's a distinct possibility.”

The Raiders have four wrestlers — Alejandro Herrera at 106 pounds, Louis Newell at 120, Drew Vlasnik at 138 and Tyler Gross at 170 — seeded No. 1. Their No. 2 seeds are Jason Geyer at 126 and Antonio Amelio at 132.

No. 3 seeds include Dylan Chappell at 113, Nick Montalbano at 145, John Siwiak at 195 and Kevin Meeder at 285.

Seneca Valley placed among the top six in the state team dual match tournament, losing in the semifinals.

“That was valuable experience for all of our kids,” Wildrick said. “Now that the individual section and WPIAL meets are here, they've already experienced the feeling of wrestling in high-pressure matches.

“That can only help them on Saturday.”

SV's other four wrestlers are No. 5 seed Michael Adamson (11-16) at 152 pounds, No. 7 Conor Hayes (12-20) at 160, No. 6 Patrick Johnson (27-10) at 182 and No. 8 Nick Funovits (15-16) at 220.

“There are quality kids in his weight class, but Patrick could surprise people with a high finish,” Wildrick said. “and I think Nick (Montalbano) can win at 145, even though that's one of the deepest weight classes in our section.”

Five Raider wrestlers — Herrera (36-7), Chappell (31-10), Newell (32-3), Montalbano (31-10) and Gross (33-6) — have more than 30 wins this season.

Butler has nine wrestlers in action Saturday. Christian Sequete (26-3) is the Golden Tornado's lone No. 1 seed at 182 pounds. Jack Codispot is a No. 2 seed at 145 with a 28-4 record. Freshman Steven Green, 27-9 at 132, is a No. 3 seed.

“Two of Christian's three losses are to the defending state champion from Albert Gallatin,” Butler coach Scott Stoner said. “He may run into Hampton's (Justin) Hart, a freshman who is 32-1, but if Christian wrestles his match, I'm confident he can win.

"I'm hopeful we can get our three freshmen through and Rob Hays (17-11 at 160), who has only been wrestling for two years."

Butler freshman Clayton Dressler is 17-12 at 106 and fellow frosh Nate McMaster is 20-11 at 120. Both are seeded fourth.

"We're hoping to get at least six guys through, but you never know," Stoner said. "I've been disappointed in this tournament before and I've been surprised before."

Mars has one No. 1 seed— Alex Hornfeck (27-2) at 145 pounds — and three third-seeded wrestlers in Noah Hunkele (21-6) at 106, Jake Richardson (25-3) at 160 and Sean McElhinny (21-12) at 170.

Knoch 220-pounder Saavon Mosby (23-3) is a No. 1 seed. Eric Green (24-3) is seeded third for the Knights at 182.

Wrestling is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. Saturday. The consolation finals will begin at approximately 4 p.m., followed by the championship finals.

No. 1 seeds

Here are the top-seeded wrestlers for Saturday's Section 3-AAA individual championships at Fox Chapel:

106 pounds: Alejandro Herrera (Seneca Valley) 36-7

113: Ryan Sullivan (Shaler) 31-1

120: Louis Newell (Seneca Valley) 32-3

126: Sam Hillegas (North Hills) 22-1

132: Garrett Reinsfelder (Shaler) 29-4)

138: Drew Vklasnik (Seneca Valley) 28-11)

145: Alex Hornfeck (Mars) 27-2

152: Cole Spencer (Pine-Richland) 23-2

160: Jon Hoover (North Allegheny) 30-4

170: Ty Gross (Seneca Valley) 33-6

182: Christian Sequete (Butler) 26-3

195: Nathan Mankey (North Hills) 22-3

220: Saavon Mosby (Knoch) 23-3)

285: Derek Devine (North Allegheny) 23-6

Butler Eagle

7 county wrestlers snare section crowns

25 matmen advance to WPIAL tourney

[John Enrietto, Eagle Staff Writer, February 26, 2018 - High School Wrestling](#)



Mars' Alex Hornfeck faces down Seneca Valley's Nick Montalbano in their 145-pound section championship match Saturday. Hornfeck won the match, 10-0.

DAVE PRELOSKY/BUTLER EAGLE

FOX CHAPEL — Seven section champions and a whole lot of promise.

That's what Butler County high school wrestling programs took away from the Section 3-AAA Individual Championships Saturday at Fox Chapel.

Seneca Valley had four

individual champions — Alejandro Herrera at 106 pounds, Louis Newell at 120, Drew Vlasnik at 138 and Tyler Gross at 170. Herrera, a freshman, needs only one more win for 40 this year.

"It's a lot of wins, but I've had a lot of chances to get wins," Herrera said, referring to the Raiders' deep run in the PIAA team dual match tournament.

Newell scored his 150th career win — against only 23 losses — when the Pitt-bound 120-pounder decisioned Nathan Lukez of Pine-Richland 15-5 in the title match.

"I didn't know that was my 150th ... It's a nice time for that to happen," the soft-spoken Newell said. "That's a good career accomplishment."

Butler's Christian Sequete (29-3) won the 182-pound section title by decisioning Justin Hart (34-2) 6-3 in the finals. Sequete pinned his first two opponents Saturday. He was victimized by a pair of head butts against Hart in the title match.

"Their heads just came together when Hart rushed at him ... That stuff happens," Butler coach Scott Stoner said. "Christian had to gut it out after that."

The match was stopped twice to allow Sequete some recovery time. A third stoppage would have ended the bout and he would have lost by default.

“I don't think it was intentional,” Sequete said of the head butts. “Things happen during a match. I got through it.”

Hornfeck had a pair of pins before defeating SV's Nick Montalbano 10-0 in the finals. Hornfeck has 121 career wins and is a two-time section champion.

“I'm excited about taking my shot at getting through to states,” Hornfeck said. “I've put in a lot of work for this. I know I'm improved over last year.”

Richardson won by injury defeat over North Allegheny's Jon Hoover in his title bout. Hoover suffered a blow to the head and was too woozy to continue.

“That was disappointing because he beat me 5-1 earlier this year and I wanted to get my revenge on the mat,” Richardson said. “I'm proud of winning the title, but that was a tough way to do it.”

Aidan Leshinsky at 132 pounds is Mars' fifth WPIAL qualifier.

Losing section title matches for Seneca Valley were Jason Geyer at 126, Antonio Amelio at 132, Montalbano and heavyweight Kevin Meeder. Dylan Chappell and John Siwiak placed third at 113 and 195 pounds, respectively, and will also advance to the WPIAL tournament.

Besides Sequete, Butler is advancing Jack Codispot (third at 145), Nate McMaster (fourth at 120), Clayton Dressler (fifth at 106) and Rob Hays (fifth at 160).

Hays (19-13) reversed and pinned SV's Conor Hayes with one second left in the fifth-place match to extend his season.

“Robby's only been wrestling for two years and had one win on the mat last year,” Stoner said. “For him to get through — and the way he did it — is a remarkable achievement.”

Knoch advanced five wrestlers — Brendan Hinchberger (third at 152), fourth-place finishers Kameron Grassi at 132, Eric Green at 182 and Saavon Mosby at 220, and Guy DeLeonardis (fifth at 145).

“I'm very happy about what we've done here,” Knoch coach Steve Carney said. “These kids showed that we can make it happen in this program.”

“Our guys never quit on the mat. I'm glad the hard work has paid off. This should help us in the future, too.”

The WPIAL Championships take place Friday and Saturday at Canon-McMillan High School.

Butler Eagle

Stars aligned

Butler's Sequete can hit 100 wins with appearance in WPIAL finals

[John Enrietto, Eagle Staff Writer](#), February 27, 2018 - High School Wrestling



Butler senior 182-pound wrestler Christian Sequete, right, is the No. 2 seed in his weight class for this weekend's WPIAL Championships. Sequete is 29-3 on the season.

DAVE PRELOSKY/BUTLER EAGLE

FOX CHAPEL — The stars are aligned for Christian Sequete.

Get to the WPIAL championship round, get to 100 career wins. Butler's senior 182-pound wrestler wants them both — badly.

"I want to join that 100-win list," Sequete said after winning the Section 3-AAA title Saturday. "We haven't had too many."

The Golden Tornado have had eight 100-win wrestlers in the program's history. They've had seven wrestlers advance to the PIAA Tournament. They've had one WPIAL champion.

Sequete has an opportunity to add his name to all of those rather exclusive clubs.

"I can see him getting to the (WPIAL) finals down there," Butler coach Scott Stoner said. "Christian has all of the tools. He's very capable.

"He has to stay aggressive when he gets the upper hand and not let his opponent get back in matches."

Sequete (29-3) is seeded No. 2 at 182 in the WPIAL Tournament, a two-day event that gets under way Friday at Canon-McMillan High School. The No. 1 seed is Tim Wallace (31-2) of Albert Gallatin.

Wallace, a defending state champion, has defeated Sequete twice this season. The Butler wrestler's other loss is a decision to Bethel Park's Jason Montgomery (29-3), a state placer from last season who won his section title at 170 pounds last weekend.

"Christian shaved the gap (on the scoreboard) against Wallace the second time he faced him," Stoner said. "It would be an interesting match if they face each other again."

Sequete may have to get through a rematch with Hampton's Justin Hart first. Hart (32-2), a freshman, dropped a 6-3 decision to Sequete in the section finals and is seeded No. 3 in the WPIAL tourney. They would meet in the semifinals if both stay in the championship bracket.

Sequete had a 5-0 lead on Hart before their heads collided in the latter half of the match. Sequete needed injury and recovery time and held on for the win.

Sequete is a four-year WPIAL qualifier, though his junior season got a late start due to a torn meniscus. He was 18-4 last year.

"I feel like I can go down there and win this time," he said of the WPIAL tourney. "I'm healthy and I've been working toward this.

"I've been wrestling more aggressively this year. I'm a better wrestler when I do that."

After last season, Sequete participated in the Flo Nationals at Indiana (Pa.) University and placed eighth in his weight class, earning All-America status. He was unseeded in that tournament.

He hasn't stopped since.

"I'm hoping he takes us both east (to Hershey and the state tourney)," Stoner said. "I think Christian is prepared mentally for what lies ahead.

"I know he's hungry."

Sequete is one of two Butler County wrestlers with a No. 2 seed in the WPIAL tourney. Seneca Valley's Louis Newell (35-3) is No. 2 at 120 pounds, behind only Canon-McMillan's Logan Macri (31-2).

Seneca Valley's Drew Vlasnik (30-11) at 138 and Mars' Alex Hornfeck (30-2) at 145 are both seeded fourth in the tournament.

Butler Eagle

5 area wrestlers reach semifinals

From staff reports - [March 3, 2018](#) - [High School Wrestling](#)

Butler County will have five wrestlers in the semifinals Saturday after a good night on the mat at Canon-McMillan High School Friday at the WPIAL Class AAA Championships.

Seneca Valley will have three grapplers in the semis, led by 120-pounder Louis Newell. Newell, a senior who won a WPIAL title at 106 pounds two years ago, cruised into the semifinals with an 18-3 technical fall over Devyn Giovengo of Montour in the first round and then a 13-4 major decision over Tyler Kocak of Hampton in the quarterfinals. Newell will meet Wyatt Henderson of Waynesburg in the semifinals Saturday.

Drew Vlasnik at 138 pounds also punched his ticket to the semifinals for Seneca Valley.

Vlasnik rallied to pin Neiko Kuntz of Belle Vernon late in their first-round match and then won a 5-1 decision over Alex Weber of Thomas Jefferson to advance.

He will take on Noah Levett of Kiski in the semis.

Alejandro Herrera-Rondon (106 pounds) is the third Raider in the semifinals after notching a 16-1 tech fall in the first round and then a 16-3 major decision over Jamie Cambron in the quarterfinals.

Herrera-Rondon will grapple with Carter Dilbert of Franklin Regional in the semifinals.

Christian Sequete of Butler also saw little resistance Friday in reaching the 182-pound semifinals.

Sequete pinned Nevin Matthews of Gateway in the first round in just 1:32 and then pinned John Bachar of Penn-Trafford in just 2:16 to advance.

Sequete will battle Justin Hart of Hampton Saturday in the semifinals.

Mars also sends a wrestler to the semis.

Alex Hornfeck (145 pounds) earned a first-round pin of Franklin Regional's Mason Spears in 1:54 and then gutted out a 6-2 decision over Tanner Rohaley of Canon-McMillan in the quarterfinals to move on.

He will wrestle Jackson Gray of Mt. Lebanon in the semifinals.

Butler Eagle

Taking over the throne

Butler's Sequete stuns 2-time WPIAL mat champ to take title

[John Enrietto - Eagle Staff Writer, March 4, 2018 - News Extra](#)



CANONSBURG — Win No. 100 was pretty big.

Win No. 101 dwarfed it.

Butler senior 182-pound wrestler Christian Sequete secured the latter by a 9-2 decision over Tim Wallace of Albert Gallatin in their WPIAL Class AAA championship match Saturday night at Canon-McMillan High School.

Sequete (33-3) became only the second Golden Tornado wrestler to ever secure a WPIAL title. Cole Baxter won the crown at 145 pounds in 2009.

“That 100 wins doesn't mean that much now,” Sequete admitted. “This championship ... It's just so much more important for so many reasons.

“I can't put into words how I feel right now.”

Sequete began the tournament with 97 career wins. He pinned his way to 100, putting Gateway's Nevin Matthews' shoulders to the mat at 1:32 of their first-round match.

He put away John Bachar of Penn-Trafford at 2:16 of their quarterfinal bout. That set up a rematch with Hampton freshman Justin Hart in the semifinals.

Sequete decisioned Hart 6-3 in the Section 3 title bout the previous weekend. That was Hart's second loss of the season. Sequete handed Hart — who wound up placing fourth in the WPIAL tourney — his third defeat in sound fashion. He built up a big lead before pinning Hart in 4:25. Pinning your way to the finals in this tournament ... That's doing something,” Butler coach Scott Stoner said. “Christian has looked so powerful and dominant, that may have affected the way he (Wallace) wrestled him in the finals. “Wallace wasn't quite as aggressive against him this time.”



Butler Wrestling Coach Scott Stoner, left, and 182-pound Golden Tornado senior Christian Sequete are all smiles after Sequete won the program's second-ever WPIAL championship Saturday night.

JOHN ENRIETTO/ BUTLER EAGLE

Wallace (34-3) is 136-20 in his varsity career. He entered the finals Saturday night as a two-time defending WPIAL champion. He also owned decisions of 7-0 and 6-3 over Sequete earlier this season.

Sequete said Wallace “tried to move in and throw me early” in their WPIAL title match. Sequete was able to turn the tables on him.

“I was able to counter him and get some quick near-fall points (in the first period),” he said. “Getting on top right away like that ... To be honest, I felt like I had the match in the bag already.” He was right.

Sequete took a 4-0 lead into the second period. Wallace scored a pair of points in the middle frame to draw close, but Sequete dominated the final period.

A takedown and near fall just missed resulting in Sequete's fourth pin of the tournament. But he gladly accepted the 9-2 decision.

“Best tournament I've ever had in my life,” he said. “I've never wrestled this well.”

Stoner credited the senior for following through and being patient with his moves against Wallace.

“Christian never quit on anything out there in that match,” the coach said. “He stayed with it. I've never seen him so focused and determined.

“He beat a two-time WPIAL champion handily. He was confident from the start and that confidence never wavered.”

Sequete became the ninth Butler wrestler to reach the career 100-win plateau. His 101st triumph tied Alex Evanoff for eighth on the Tornado's all-time list.

Sequete will head to Hershey and the PIAA Tournament Thursday needing two wins to tie T.J. McCance for seventh on the list. “100 ... That's just a number,” Sequete said, smiling. “Getting to the top of that podium is what I'll always remember. “I'd love to do that one more time. “Stoner couldn't help but smile over Sequete's overall performance in the tournament.



Butler's Christian Sequete, far left, stands atop the podium after winning the WPIAL Class AAA 182-pound title Saturday night at Canon-McMillan High School.

JOHN ENRIETTO/ BUTLER EAGLE



Butler Eagle

Masters of the mat

6 county wrestlers seek state glory at PIAA Championships

[John Enrietto, Eagle Staff Writer](#), March 8, 2018 - High School Wrestling



Mars wrestler Alex Hornfeck (top) is in control of this regular season match earlier this year. The 145-pound Hornfeck is one of six wrestlers from Butler County schools competing in this weekend's PIAA Championships at the Giant Center in Hershey.

BUTLER EAGLE FILE PHOTO

Christian Sequete and Alex Hornfeck are seniors set to compete in the PIAA Class AAA Wrestling Championships for the first time.

Their coaches believe they will experience nervousness — and success — at the Giant Center in Hershey. The tournament begins Thursday evening.

“When you step out on that mat for the first time in such a big arena, and all the wrestlers in the state you've heard about are all there ... It can be a bit overwhelming,” Butler coach Scott Stoner said.

Sequete, the Golden Tornado's 182-pound WPIAL champion, is 33-3 this season and 101-26 in his career. Hornfeck, Mars' 145-pounder who placed third in the WPIAL tourney, has 126 career wins.

“It's that first match, the first few seconds of it, where the nerves may be there,” Planets coach Jason Wilk said. “But once you get into that first match ... It's wrestling.”

Sequete and Hornfeck have wrestled in big events before.

Both have competed at Flo Nationals at Indiana (Pa.) University. Sequete placed in that event and was an All-American last year. Hornfeck has also wrestled in the Super 32, a 30-mat event in North Carolina.

“Christian is riding a lot of momentum into this week,” Stoner said. “I do think he's wrestling at his best right now.”

“We'll go one match at a time and see how it turns out. They seed the five regional champions and Christian is seeded fifth because he's the only one of the five champs (at 182) who hasn't been to states before. But that doesn't mean anything right now.”

Wilk likes Hornfeck's draw at the state meet — and the fact he'll be facing opponents who don't know him.

Seneca Valley has a senior and a freshman in the PIAA tourney in 120-pound Louis Newell and 106-pound Alejandro Herrera. Both were WPIAL runner-ups last weekend.

Newell (154-24) is looking for his first state title. He placed second at 113 last year, second at 106 as a sophomore and eighth at 106 as a freshman.

Herrera is 42-8 this season and hopes for an eventual rematch with unbeaten Kurtis Phipps of Norwin. Phipps is the No. 1 seed in the PIAA bracket at 106.

PIAA Wrestling, First Round- Class AAA

182: Christian Sequete (Butler) 33-3 vs. Josh Krieger (Shikellamy) 29-6

Class AA

145: Michael Doerflinger (Slippery Rock) 28-7 vs. Michael Capozzoli (Newport) 31-10

195: Tyler Stine (Summit Academy) 20-5 vs. Donny Gelnett (Upper Dauphin) 39-10

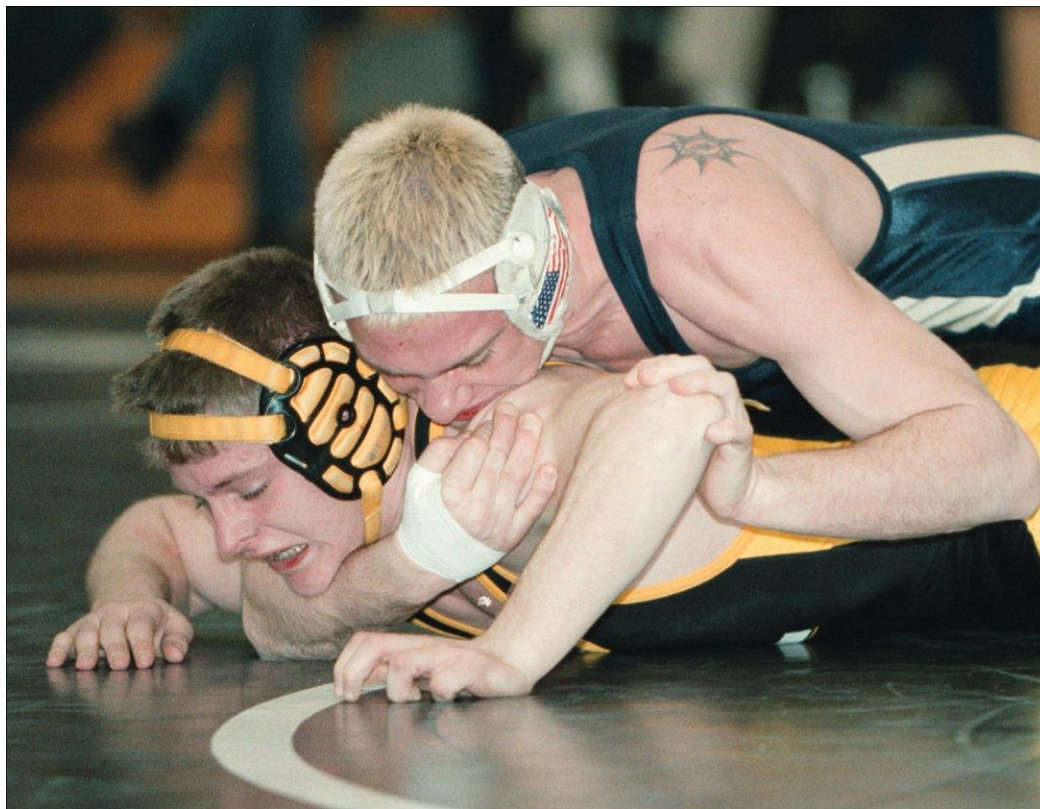


Butler Eagle

McCance proud to be a wrestler

Butler graduate's mat legacy lands him in Butler County HOF

[John Enrietto, Eagle Staff Writer](#) - March 22, 2018 High School Wrestling



T.J. McCance, Butler's 1st 100-win wrestler, is in firm control of this opponent during his senior season. McCance is being inducted into the Butler County Sports Hall of Fame.

FILE PHOTO

This is the first in a series of articles profiling the 2018 inductees into the Butler County Sports Hall of Fame

When T.J. McCance reached 100 career wins as a Butler High School wrestler, he was the first in program history to do so.

That was in 2002. Nine Butler wrestlers are part of the school's 100-win club now.

"And seven of them have passed me up," said McCance, who graduated with a 103-20 career record.

"I love that. I'm proud of being the first one to 100, but I'm more proud of how many kids have excelled in the program since. If I had a small part in promoting awareness of the sport, that's enough for me."

But he's gotten much more.

McCance was inducted into the Butler Area School District Hall of Fame in 2015. He will be inducted into the Butler County Sports Hall of Fame during the organization's annual banquet at 6 p.m. April 28 at the Lyndora American Legion Hall.

McCance is the first high school wrestler to join the county HOF. Seneca Valley wrestling Coach Ken Lockey was inducted in 1993.

"I'm equally excited to be inducted into both of them," McCance said. "It's a great feeling and it's another opportunity to thank all of the people who have made such a positive impact on my life."

While McCance won 103 matches in high school, that number could have soared higher had it not been for a number of assorted injuries.

Butler wrestling Coach Scott Stoner recalled McCance winning a section tournament title his junior year "with virtually one arm."

"He had a torn ligament in his elbow which was very painful for him," Stoner said. "But T.J. was in a class by himself in terms of toughness."

McCance said that toughness came from his love for the sport and fear of losing.



"I was always afraid to fail," he said. "The wrestling room was always like my sanctuary. The qualities you need to compete in wrestling help carry you through life.

"When you lose a match, shake hands with your opponent and watch as his hand is raised above you ... You learn things about yourself.

"I was raised to have a toughness about myself, not to make excuses," McCance added.

McCance went on to wrestle at Clarion University, where I "was basically a .500 wrestler" and a three-year starter. He attained a Division I national ranking his final year before an injury ended his career.

"I was really looking forward to that season. Then I blew out my knee and that was it," he said.

He did become a PSAC Scholar Athlete and was president of the Clarion University Student Senate his senior year. McCance was also selected as team captain for his final season.

"He was very intense in everything he did," Stoner said. "T.J. never looked at himself as an underdog in any way.

"He's gone on to become a good family man and successful in business. He came back to help coach with us for a while and he's mentored youth wrestlers in Butler. To this day, T.J. calls me Coach and a friend and I'm very proud of that."

McCance is a financier with Hebron-Tillotson today. He and wife Halee will be celebrating their 10th anniversary this summer. They have a 5-year-old son, Isaac, who enjoys baseball and gymnastics.

"He's already a gym rat," McCance said. "He keeps us hopping, that's for sure."

Tickets to the BCSHOF banquet are available at Moses Jewelers at the Clearview Mall, Snack n' Pack in Butler, Saxonburg Drug, Parker's Appliance in Chicora and Maddalon Jewelers in Zelenople.

